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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,276	01/18/2005	Carmen Zotti	021712-00011	8669
4372	7590	03/28/2007	EXAMINER	
ARENT FOX PLLC			GUIDOTTI, LAURA COLE	
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.				
SUITE 400			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			1744	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	03/28/2007	PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/520,276	ZOTTI, CARMEN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Laura C. Guidotti	1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6-10, 12-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01182005
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The Information Disclosure Statement of 18 January 2004 cites Spain 2131132, a copy of which was not provided by the Applicant, and therefore this document has not been considered. The Applicant failed to submit copies of other foreign patent documents and other references, however these documents were available to Examiner by alternative sources and therefore the Examiner has considered these.

### ***Specification***

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet *within the range of 50 to 150 words*. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### ***Arrangement of the Specification***

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.

- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
  - (1) Field of the Invention.
  - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

***Claim Objections***

4. Claims 6-10 and 12-20 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 2-3, 5/2, 5/3, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the corresponding niche" in Lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the corresponding niche" in Line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the figures" in Line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 is also somewhat unclear in Lines 2-5, which recites "...head presents, at opposite ends, appendages of easy grip for the ends of the figures and for limiting..."

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parker et al., US 2002/0066151.

Parker et al. disclose the claimed invention including a brush with a handle (50) and a bristle holder head (18) characterized in that the handle and bristle holder head are connected by a flexible intermediate element (20; paragraph 17). Regarding claim 2, the intermediate flexible element (20) can be inserted into a niche located in the

handle (“niche” is the recessed area of threads 52, 52a of the handle 50, Figure 3).

Regarding claim 4, the head, handle, and intermediate flexible element form a single piece (when assembled; paragraph 15).

7. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burton, US 6,154,913.

Burton discloses the claimed invention including a brush with a handle (22) and a bristle holder head (24) characterized in that the handle and bristle holder head are connected by a flexible intermediate element (26; Column 2 Line 65 to Column 3 Line 2). Regarding claim 2, the intermediate flexible element (26) can be inserted into a niche located in the handle (“niche” is the recessed area of threads 36, 38 of the handle 22, Figure 2). Regarding claim 3, the intermediate flexible element (26) is joined to the handle and can be inserted in the corresponding niche located in the head (“niche” is the recessed area of threads 70, 72 of the head 24, Figure 2), so that the bristle holder head can be separated from the handle. Regarding claim 4, the head, handle, and intermediate flexible element form a single piece (when assembled; Figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, the intermediate flexible element (26) is “laminar” (in that it is a thin layer, see Figures, Column 2 Line 65 to Column 3 Line 2; “laminar” is defined as “A thin plate, sheet, or layer” according to *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.*)

8. Claims 1, 4, 5/1, 5/4, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lynch et al., US 6,006,393.

Lynch et al. discloses the claimed invention including a brush with a handle (23) and a bristle holder head (22; Column 5 Lines 43-46) characterized in that the handle and bristle holder head are connected by a flexible intermediate element (24; Column 3 Lines 52-57). Regarding claim 4, the head, handle, and intermediate flexible element form a single piece (as shown in Figures 3-4; "integrally formed", Column 2 Lines 14-15). Regarding claim 5, the intermediate flexible element (24) is "laminar" (in that it is constructed of thin plates, sheets, or layers, see Figures; "laminar" is defined as "A thin plate, sheet, or layer" according to *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.*) Regarding claim 11, at the end of the handle nearest to the bristle holder head, at opposite ends, are appendages of easy grip (unlabeled, see in particularly Figures 3 and 10-12).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton, US 6,154,913 in view of Stowell et al., US 4,974,286.

Burton discloses all elements stated above, however does not include at the end of the handle nearest the bristle holder at opposite ends, appendages of easy grip.

Stowell et al. teaches a universal handle (10) that is used with brushes (11; Figures 1-2) that at an end of the handle nearest the brush head at opposite ends,

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appendages (19; see Figures) to enhance a user's grip on the handle (Column 3 Line 54 to Column 4 Line 9).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the handle of Burton to include at the end of the handle nearest the bristle holder at opposite ends, appendages of easy grip, as Stowell et al. teach, in order to enhance a user's grip while using the device having such a handle.

***Conclusion***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Guidotti whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am - 5pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran can be reached on (571) 272-1214. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Laura C Guidotti*  
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Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1744

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